



# House Ways and Means Subcommittee

FY 2020-21 Budget Request



South Carolina Department of  
**CHILDREN'S  
ADVOCACY**  
Advocacy. Accountability. Service.

# Agency Information

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- Began July 1, 2019
- Approximately 222 employees
- Consists of four areas:
  - Continuum of Care
  - Foster Care Review Board
  - Guardian ad litem Program
  - Investigations Unit





SOUTH CAROLINA  
**continuum of care**

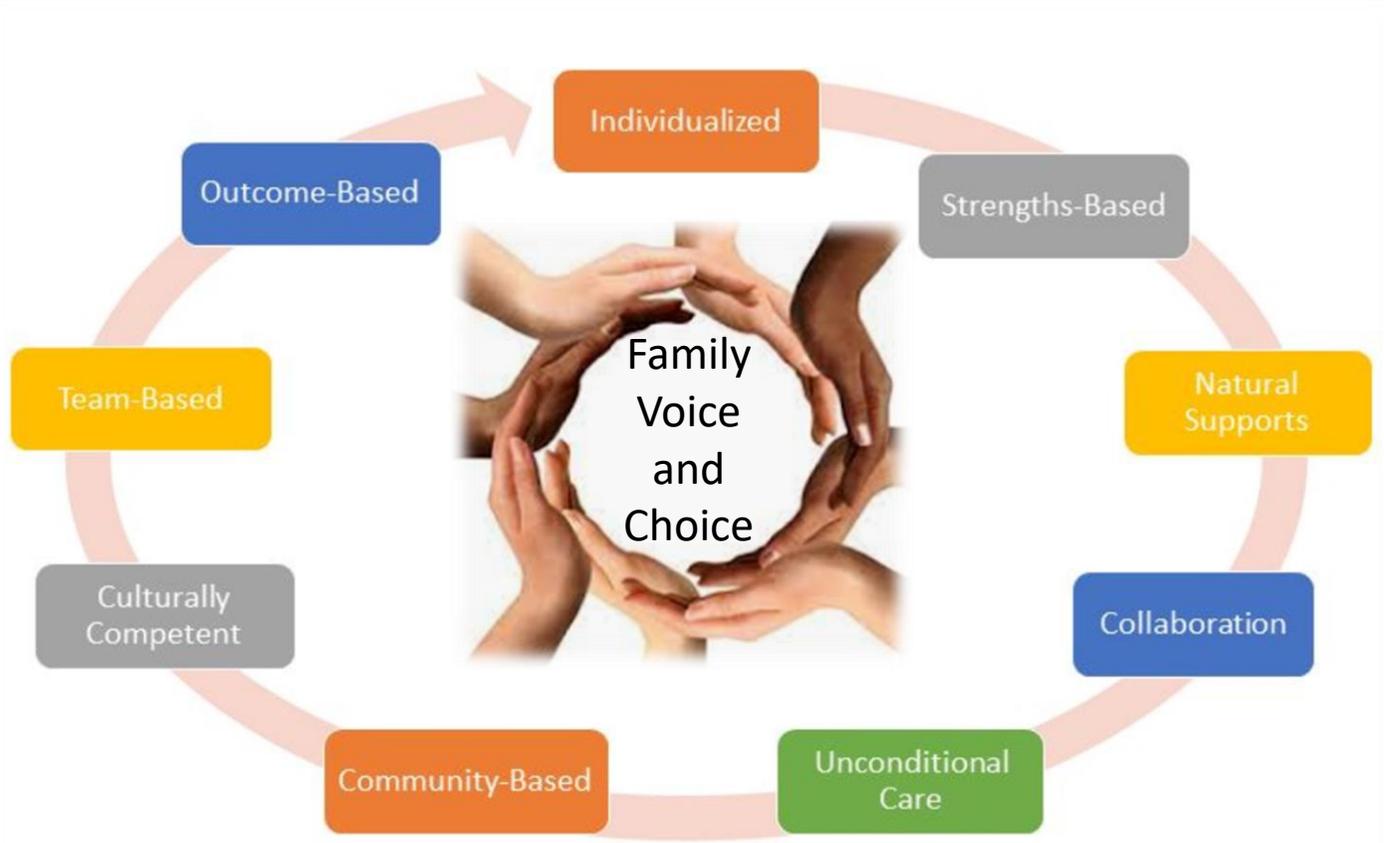
# Continuum of Care

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The Continuum of Care is a South Carolina state program that serves children with serious emotional or behavioral health diagnoses whose families need help keeping them in their home, school or community. The Continuum helps children and families using Wraparound, a team-based approach to caring for families with complicated needs.



# What is Wraparound?



# Measurable Outcomes

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| Served Youth Medians |                 |                   |            |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------|
| Region               | Baseline Scores | Most Recent CAFAS | Difference |
| A                    | 140             | 80                | 60         |
| B                    | 140             | 90                | 50         |
| C                    | 140             | 70                | 70         |
| D                    | 160             | 110               | 50         |

*Data from Fidelity EHR 1/14/2020*

# Recurring Budget Request

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- Medicaid reimbursement rate decreased by 36% from FY 2014 to FY 2019
- 1915 (C) Medicaid Waiver
- FY 2021 budget proposes an increase of \$2,600,000 in recurring operating funding for Continuum of Care

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# **FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD**

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*Advocating Permanent Families for Children*

# Foster Care Review Board

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## FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

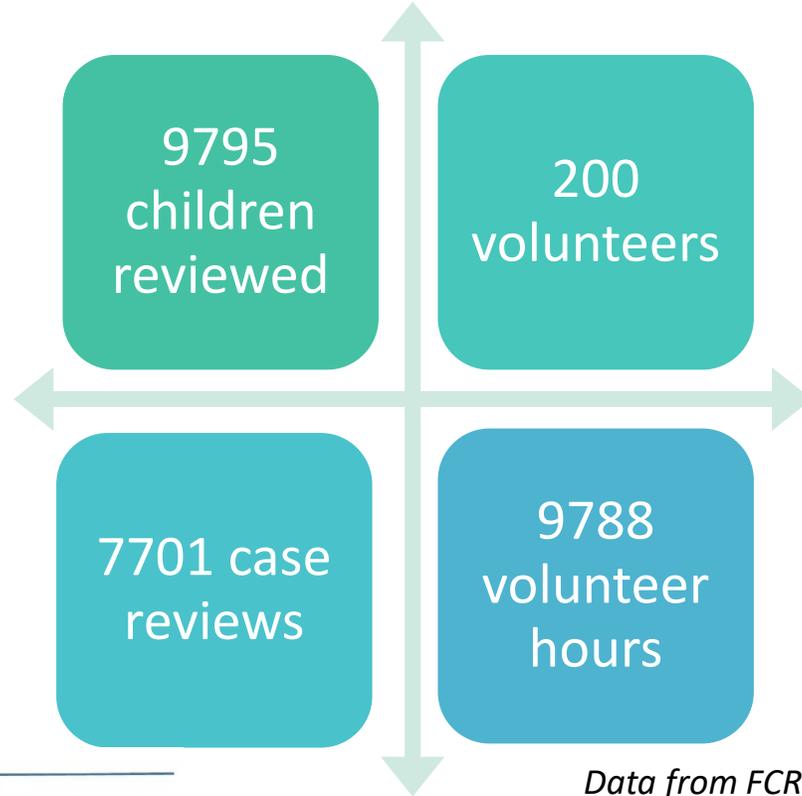
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Advocating Permanent Families for Children

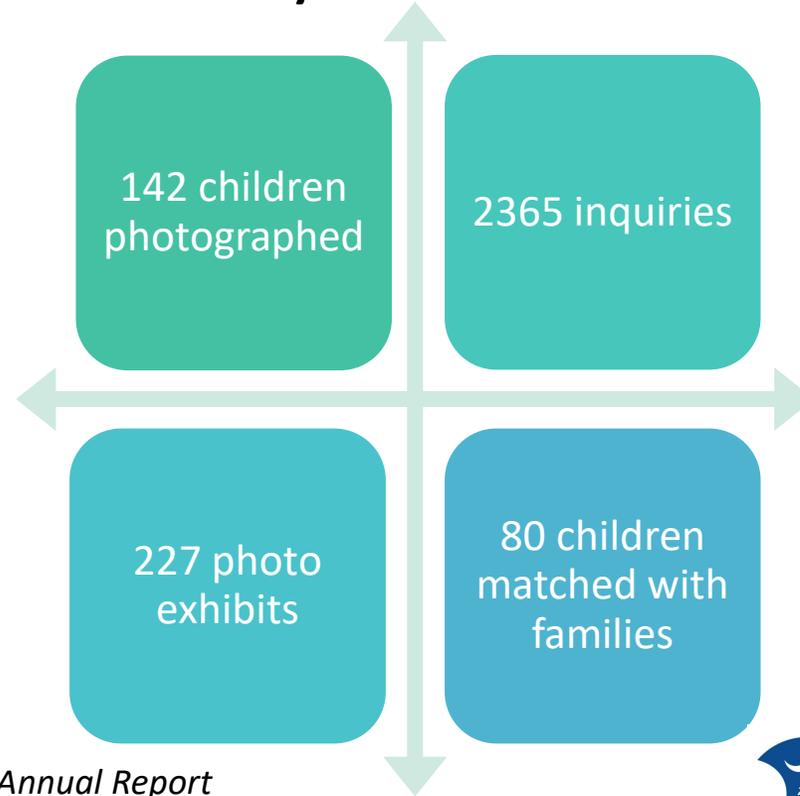


# Foster Care Review Board

## Foster Care Review Board Staff and Volunteers



## Heart Gallery Staff and Volunteers



Data from FCRB 2018-2019 Annual Report

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

Advocating Permanent Families for Children





**GAL**

Guardian ad Litem

**FOR CHILDREN**

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**CASS ELIAS McCARTER  
GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM  
SOUTH CAROLINA**

# Guardian ad Litem Program



Effective July 1, 2010, all children who are involved in a DSS abuse and neglect action in Family Court must have a Guardian ad Litem appointed for them through the Guardian ad Litem Program (except Richland County which has a separate program).

In **FY 2018–19**, more than **2,000** Guardian ad Litem volunteers served **15,603** South Carolina children.



# Guardian ad Litem Program

**As of July 1, 2019:**

- **6,060** children had an appointed volunteer Guardian ad Litem
- **3,083** children had an appointed staff Guardian ad Litem



CASS ELIAS McCARTER  
GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM  
SOUTH CAROLINA



# Guardian ad Litem Program

## Guardian ad Litem Program Staff Capacity

| Current Positions      | Current Total | Filled July 1, 2019 | Filled January 2, 2020 |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Total FTE              | 120           | 78                  | 91                     |
| Total Temporary Grant  | 10            | 6                   | 7                      |
| Total Time Limited     | 2             | 1                   | 1                      |
| Total Temporary Hourly | 9             | 0                   | 9                      |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>141</b>    | <b>85</b>           | <b>108</b>             |

# Guardian ad Litem Program

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**The FY 2020-21 budget proposes a modification of Proviso 41.2 to authorize a broader use of Guardian ad Litem Program's carryforward funds.**

# INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

# Investigations Unit: New Statutory Duties

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- **Ensure that children under the care of a state agency** receive timely, safe and effective services.
- **Examine, on a system-wide basis, the care and services** that state agencies provide children.
- **Develop and promote a broad vision for reform.**
- **Receive and investigate complaints** related to the provision of services to children by a state agency.
- **Receive and investigate complaints from children in the care of the state.**
- **Receive and possibly investigate critical incidents.**
- **Serve as a State Child Fatality Committee member.**



**1-800-206-1957**  
***childadvocate.sc.gov***



# Investigations Unit: Six Month Snapshot

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- **Complaints Submitted By:**
  - Website: [childadvocate.sc.gov](http://childadvocate.sc.gov)
  - Toll Free Number: 1-800-206-1957
- **Approximately 800 complaints received within first six months**



INVESTIGATIONS UNIT





South Carolina Department of  
**CHILDREN'S  
ADVOCACY**  
*Advocacy. Accountability. Service.*

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